

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system in which various feature values possessed by a multimedia object are used to search for a similar object, said system comprising:

a feature value calculation section configured to calculate one or more types of feature values from the multimedia object which is to be registered;

a category setting section configured to set a recommended category, ~~which is~~ based on the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation section; on a database storing the multimedia object, the recommended category is being provided to a user as an initial value of a registration category in a form of category selection list in which a recommended category is pre-selected and a not-recommended category is not selected, for allowing the user to change the selection status of each category on the category selection list so as to determine the registration category of the multimedia object to be registered; and

a registration section configured to associate with the multimedia object which is to be registered, the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation section and the registration category determined by the user, said registration section registering the multimedia object, the feature value, and the registration category determined by the user into the database.

2. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section selects a plurality of categories based on the feature value calculated by the feature value

calculation section, and displays the plurality of selected categories in order of high accuracy.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein the category setting section displays the plurality of categories selected based on the feature value as a list of recommended categories indicating the categories having the accuracy which is not less than a set threshold value, and a list of non-recommended categories indicating the categories having the accuracy which is less than the threshold value.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section selects the category which is the registration end based on the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation section, and displays the selected category to which a symbol representing the accuracy is attached.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section includes:

a discriminant analysis section configured to discriminate/analyze the feature value of the registered multimedia object with respect to the registration-end category; and

a storage section configured to store a discriminant analysis result of the discriminant analysis section,

wherein said category setting section uses the discriminant analysis result stored in the storage section to determine the category which is the registration end.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein the discriminant analysis section discriminates/analyzes the feature value with respect to the registered objects including

the multimedia object constituting the registration object, after the category setting section determines the registration end of the multimedia object.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an object designation section configured to designate an arbitrary multimedia object as the multimedia object which is the registration object; and

an attribute designation section configured to carry out at least one of designation and input of attribute information of the multimedia object designated by the object designation section.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the category setting section includes an attribute designation section configured to carry out at least one of designation and input of attribute information of the multimedia object which is the registration object.

11. (Currently Amended) A method in which various feature values possessed by a multimedia object are used to search for a similar object, comprising:

calculating one or more types of feature values from the multimedia object which is to be registered;

setting a recommended category, which is based on the calculated feature value, on a database storing the multimedia object;

presenting the recommended category as an initial value of a registration category in a form of category selection list in which a recommended category is already selected and a not-recommended category is not selected, to a user for allowing the user to change the selection status of each category on the category selection list so as to determine the registration category of the multimedia object to be registered; and

associating with the multimedia object which is to be registered, the calculated feature value and the registered category to register the multimedia object, the feature value, and the registered category into the database.

12. (Currently Amended) A system in which various feature values possessed by a multimedia object are used to search for a similar object, comprising:

feature value calculation means for calculating one or more types of feature values from the multimedia object which is to be registered;

category setting means for setting a recommended category, which is based on the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation means, on a database storing the multimedia object, the recommended category is provided as an initial value of a registration category in a form of category selection list in which a recommended category is already selected and a not-recommended category is not selected, to a user for allowing the user to change the selection status of each category on the category selection list so as to determine the registration category of the multimedia object; and

registration means for associating with the multimedia object which is to be registered, the feature value calculated by the feature value calculation means and the registration category determined by the user to register the multimedia object, the feature value, and the registration category determined by the user into the database.